

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 500  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Britt Pritchett of Nashville, former Chief Sergeant at Arms of the Senate of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend William Britt "Bill" Pritchett, a former Sergeant at Arms of the Senate of the 97<sup>th</sup> - 101<sup>st</sup> Tennessee General Assemblies, during the years of 1991 to 2000 respectively, serving as Chief Sergeant at Arms during the 100<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Pritchett was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he was born September 6, 1928 in Eufaula, Alabama, to the late Joseph Henry and Sarah Dickinson Pritchett, served his nation as a member of the United States Navy, and was a proud graduate of the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pritchett served with much acumen and great enthusiasm for 38 years in the telecommunications industry, earning the respect of his peers and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; beginning in 1952 with the Bell System in Birmingham, Alabama, he quickly rose through the company with assignments in Montgomery, Atlanta, New York City, and Memphis; and

WHEREAS, arriving in Nashville in 1967, Bill Pritchett led the effort to bring South Central Bell's office into the computer age, served as director of telephone business operations for Middle Tennessee, and stood as public relations manager for Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, many members of this body first became familiar with Mr. Pritchett when he was named Bell's Government Relations Manager for Tennessee; after a short stint in Jackson, Mississippi, he would return to Tennessee in 1984 as Director of Government Relations for AT&T, the post he would hold until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, in his years as Director of Government Relations, while working closely with the Tennessee Congressional delegation as well as the General Assembly and other public officials across the state, Bill Pritchett earned the reputation of being an honest, reliable, and competent businessman who strove to provide quality telecommunications service to every Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the Rotary Club of Nashville and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce in the 1970s and 1980s, Bill Pritchett devoted his considerable abilities and his time to various civic and charitable organizations, including meritorious service as Chairman of the Boards of Directors of Junior Achievement and the Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee and membership on the Boards of Directors of the Red Cross, St. Thomas Hospital, Travelers Aid, and the United Way; and

WHEREAS, an avid sportsman and competitive golfer, Bill Pritchett enjoyed the fellowship of his golfing partners in the Bill Scott Monday Group and the Harpeth Hills Senior Golfers following his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Bill Pritchett was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order. He enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Margaret; was the proud father of daughter and son-in-law Lee and Willie Young, and son and daughter-in-law Russ and Susie Pritchett; and was the doting grandfather of treasured grandchildren Dylan, Maggie, and Sarah Young; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pritchett was a warm and affable man, who related easily to everyone he encountered; his personal warmth, humor, and free spirit were cherished by the members of the Senate and legislative employees alike, so many of whom had the great privilege to know this wonderful gentleman, as well as by his business colleagues and his many dear friends. His unmatched record in public service and business stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, William Britt Pritchett leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant, benevolent gentleman, and dear friend; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of our beloved colleague, William Britt Pritchett, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a businessman, public servant, and friend, and upon his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Pritchett.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.